

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06105 041544Z  
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 SS-15 /042 W  
-----041728Z 128188 /46

R 041350Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6975

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6105

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLOS  
SUBJECT: LOS - MESSAGE TO PRINCE SAUD FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

1. IF YOU PERCEIVE NO OBJECTIONS I WOULD APPRECIATE IT  
IF YOU WOULD CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FORM TO  
PRINCE SAUD.

BEGIN TEXT: YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS: I WOULD LIKE TO  
EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE HONOR YOU PAID ME  
AND MY COLLEAGUES IN RECEIVING US IN YOUR HOME ON MAY 1.  
I AM ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COURTESY IN RECEIVING  
US ON THE DAY YOUR COUNTRY WAS CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF  
HIS MAJESTY ON WHOSE RECOVERY MY COUNTRY REJOICES WITH  
YOURS.

I VALUE THE OPPORUNITY TO REVIEW WITH YOU SOME OF THE  
MAJOR ISSUES OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. I VALUE,  
TOO, YOUR ASSURANCES THAT SAUDI ARABIA SEES MANY OF THESE  
ISSUES IN THE SAME LIGHT AS DOES MY GOVERNMENT.

I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT YOU, AS WE, ATTACH  
HIGH IMPORTANCE TO THE EARLY CONCLUSION OF A WIDELY  
ACCEPTABLE TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, AND I AM  
ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THAT AN ACCOMMODATION OF VIEWS  
CAN BE REACHED AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE.  
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AS I NOTED TO YOU, THE MOST DIFFICULT OUTSTANDING  
ISSUES ARE THOSE RELATING TO THE REIMES FOR EXPLOI-  
TATION OF THE DEEP SEABED. THESE MUST BE SUCCESS-  
FULLY RESOLVED BEFORE WE CAN ACHIEVE THE KIND OF  
COMPREHENSIVE TREATY WHICH WILL PROTECT VITAL INTERESTS  
OF BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES. I THINK  
WE BOTH AGREE THAT AN ACCEPTABLE LAW OF THE SEA

TREATY MUST, AS THE PRESENT DRAFT TEXT LARGELY DOES, ENSURE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND FREE PASSAGE OF STRAITS AND ARCHIGELAGOS. SUCH A TREATY WOULD ALSO ARREST THE TREND TOWARD EROSION OF HIGH SEAS FREEDOMS IN AREAS BEYOND THE TERRITORIAL SEA WHICH IS ALREADY MAKING ALARMING HEADWAY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

ACCEPTING, AS I THINK WE BOTH DO, THAT MAXIMUM HIGH SEAS FREEDOMS ARE VITAL INTERESTS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I WOULD RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST TO YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, AS I DID IN OUR CONVERSATION, THAT A CERTAINED EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH BEAR HEAVY INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, TO MOVE THE CONFERENCE TO FIND COMMON GROUND ON THE ISSUE OF DEEP SEABED MINERAL RESOURCE EXPLOITATION.

SAUDI ARABIA'S GREAT INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE, PARTICULARLY AMONG HER ARAB NEIGHBORS, GIVES HER A UNIQUE POSITION OF LEADERSHIP. I HOPE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL AGREE THAT AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT FOR THE LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD EXERCISE A DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE BY ACTIVELY URGING COUNSELS OF MODERATION IN THE GROUP OF ARAB STATES. I ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE A DETERMINED AND FORTHCOMING EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A SOUND SOLUTION OF THE SEABEDS ISSUE.

I AM CONVINCED THAT TOGETHER WE CAN ADVANCE OUR  
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SHARED INTERESTS, WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY THOSE OF A GREAT MAJORITY OF THE NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH DR. MADANI AND THE SAUDI DELEGATION WHEN THE CONFERENCE RESUMES ITS WORK IN NEW YORK LATER THIS MONTH.

I HOPE THAT YOU AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE FAHD WILL HAVE AN ENJOYABLE AND PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. YOU WILL, I KNOW, BE MOST WARMLY WELCOMED.

PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST ESTEEM.

SINCERELY, SIGNED ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON. END TEXT.

2. MY COLLEAGUES AND I THANK YOU AND YOUR JIDDA AND RIYADH STAFFS VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AND

COURTESIES DURING OUR RECENT VISIT. WITH KIND  
REGARDS.  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PLOS, US, UR, (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT L), (SAUD, PRINCE)  
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**Type:** TE  
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